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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/777,889	02/07/2001	Joseph M. Cannon	Cannon 112-102	3320

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EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, KHAI MINH	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2617	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
08/30/2011	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/777,889	CANNON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	KHAI M. NGUYEN	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *6/10/2011*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

4)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

5)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,5-14,19-22,28,29 and 44-58* is/are pending in the application.

5a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-2, 5, 19-22, and 28-29* is/are allowed.

7)☒ Claim(s) *6,7,9,10,12,13,44,45,47-50,52-55,57 and 58* is/are rejected.

8)☒ Claim(s) *8, 11,14,46,51 and 56* is/are objected to.

9)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

10)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

11)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 6/10/2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues, of the remarks, that Ramaswamy and Tsukada do not disclose, teach, or suggest "place an active call at first telephone handset on hold, the intercom communication permitting voice communication between at least two of said telephone handsets."

Ramaswamy clearly discloses place an active call at first telephone handset (20) on hold (call waiting or message instructs the caller to hang up the phone, and that they will be called back) during said intercom communication (conference call between telephone handsets, fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22), the intercom communication (conference call) permitting voice communication between at least two of said telephone handsets (conference call between the handsets, fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22).

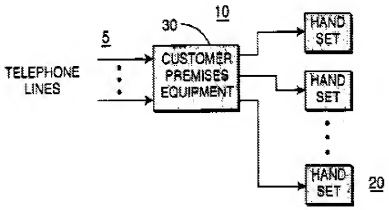

FIG. 1

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-7, 9-10, 12-13, 44-45, 47-50, 52-55, and 57-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramaswamy et al. (U.S.Pat-6628768) in view of Tsukada et al. (U.S.Pat-4640987).

Regarding claim 6, Ramaswamy teaches a telephone system comprising:

a base station (30) including first control circuitry (fig.2: digital signal processor and telephony interface 36 and 40) for controlling operations at said base station (unit 30); and

at least two cordless telephone handsets (20) for communicating with said base station (30) (fig.1, col.1, lines 13-21), each including second control circuitry (20) for controlling operations at said handset (handsets takes control, col.3, lines 5-23);

said first (30) and second control circuitry (20) operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at a first of said telephone handsets (20) to place an active call at first telephone handset on hold (call waiting or message instructs the caller to hang up the phone, and that they will be called back) during said intercom communication (fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22), the intercom

communication (conference call) permitting voice communication between at least two of said telephone handsets (conference call between the handsets, fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22).

Ramaswamy fails to specifically disclose cordless handset.

However, Tsukada teaches cordless handset (fig.1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to apply the teaching of Tsukada to Ramaswamy to a cordless telephone having a transfer capability between units and easy to carry.

Regarding claim 7, Ramaswamy teaches wherein said first control circuitry (30) causes said active call to be placed on hold when said intercom communication is initiated during said active call and initiates said intercom communication between cordless telephone handsets (fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22).

Regarding claim 9, Ramaswamy teaches a telephone system comprising:

a base station (30) including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station (fig.2: digital signal processor and telephony interface 36 and 40); and

at least a first and second telephone handset (20) for communicating with said base station (30) including second (20) and third control circuitry (20) for controlling operations at said first (20) and second telephone handset (20) respectively (handsets takes control, col.3, lines 5-23);

said first, second, and third control circuitry (20 and 30) operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said first and second telephone handsets to place an active call on hold (call waiting or message instructs the caller to

hang up the phone, and that they will be called back) during said intercom communication (fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22), the intercom communication (conference call) permitting voice communication between at least two of said telephone handsets (conference call between the handsets, fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22).

Ramaswamy fails to specifically disclose cordless handset.

However, Tsukada teaches cordless handset (fig.1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to apply the teaching of Tsukada to Ramaswamy to a cordless telephone having a transfer capability between units and easy to carry.

Regarding claim 10, Ramaswamy and Tsukada further teach first control circuitry causes said active call to be placed on hold (see Tsukada, fig.5-7, col.12, lines 3-47) when said intercom communication is initiated during said active call and initiates said intercom communication between at least two of said base station and said handsets (see Tsukada, fig.5-7, col.12, lines 3-47, col.17, lines 13-33, see Ramaswamy, fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22).

Regarding claim 12, Ramaswamy teaches a telephone system comprising:

a base station (30) including first control circuitry (fig.2: digital signal processor and telephony interface 36 and 40) for controlling operations at said base station (30), said plurality of telephone handsets (20) comprising at least first (20) and second telephone handsets (20) for communicating with said base station (30) (fig.1) and including second (20) and third control circuitry (20) for controlling operations at said

first and second cordless telephone handsets (handsets takes control, col.3, lines 5-23), respectively, and

said first, second, and third control circuitry (20 and 30) operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said first and second telephone handsets to place an active call on hold (call waiting or message instructs the caller to hang up the phone, and that they will be called back) during said intercom communication (fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22), the intercom communication (conference call) permitting voice communication between at least two of said telephone handsets (conference call between the handsets, fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22).

Ramaswamy fails to specifically disclose a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station and separate intercom buttons for a cordless telephone unit, said a cordless telephone unit comprising cordless telephone unit for communicating with said base station and including second control circuitry for controlling operations at said first unit, respectively and a separate intercom button for said base station and each other of said units.

However, Tsukada teaches a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station (fig.4, col.6, lines 13-35) and separate intercom buttons for a cordless telephone unit (fig.5-7, intercom key 153), said a cordless telephone unit comprising cordless telephone unit for communicating with said base station (fig.3-4, col.6, lines 13 to col.7, line 47) and including second control circuitry for controlling operations at said first unit (fig.3-4, col.6, lines 13 to col.7, line

47), respectively and a separate intercom button for said base station and each other of said units (fig.5-7, intercom key 153, col.8, lines 58-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to apply the teaching of Tsukada to Ramaswamy to a cordless telephone having a transfer capability between units and easy to carry.

Regarding claim 13, Ramaswamy teaches first control circuitry causes said active call to be placed on hold when said intercom communication is initiated during said active call and initiates said intercom communication between at least two of said corldless telephone handsets (fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22).

Regarding claim 44, Ramaswamy teaches a method of communicating between handsets in a multi-device telephone system, wherein:

the system comprise a base station and a handset (fig.1); and

the system is adapted to permit voice communication (i) between at least two of the wireless handsets (conference call) and (ii) between at least two of the handsets (20) and an external telephone via a telephone network (col.3, lines 5-29),

the method comprising:

(b) make a first connection for voice communication between first handset (20) of the system (fig.1: 30, 20) and an external telephone (handsets 20 able to answer the incoming call without unduly interrupting the conference call, fig.1, and 4-5, col.3, lines 5-28);

(c) place the first connection on hold (call waiting for coming call) while attempting to make a second connection for voice communication between the first

device (20) and a second device (20) of the system (conference call between the handsets, fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22).

Ramaswamy fails to specifically disclose wireless handset.

However, Tsukada teaches wireless handset (fig.1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to apply the teaching of Tsukada to Ramaswamy to a cordless telephone having a transfer capability between units and easy to carry.

Regarding claim 45, Tsukada further teaches (c) making the second connection (fig.5-7, col.12, lines 3-59, permitting three way conversation).

Regarding claim 47, Tsukada further teaches (c) breaking the second connection (fig.5-7, col.12, lines 3-59); and (d) taking the first connection off hold (fig.5-7, col.12, line 3 to col.13, line 66, col.17, lines 13-33).

Regarding claim 48, Tsukada further teaches providing an audible signal to at least one of the wireless handsets to indicate that the second connection is made (fig.5-7, col.12, line 3 to col.13, line 66, col.17, lines 13-33).

Regarding claim 49, Ramaswamy teaches a multi-device telephone system comprising:

a base station (30) and at least two handsets (20); wherein the system is adapted to:

(a) permit voice communication (i) between any two of the devices and (ii) between one of the handsets (conference call between handsets 20) and (ii) between one of the handset (20) and external telephone via a telephone network (handsets 20

able to answer the incoming call without unduly interrupting the conference call, fig.1, and 4-5, col.3, lines 5-28);

(b) make a first connection for voice communication between first handset (20) of the system (fig.1: 30, 20) and an external telephone (handsets 20 able to answer the incoming call without unduly interrupting the conference call, fig.1, and 4-5, col.3, lines 5-28);

(c) place the first connection on hold (call waiting for coming call) while attempting to make a second connection for voice communication between the first device (20) and a second device (20) of the system (conference call between the handsets, fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22).

Ramaswamy fails to specifically disclose wireless handset.

However, Tsukada teaches wireless handset (fig.1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to apply the teaching of Tsukada to Ramaswamy to a cordless telephone having a transfer capability between units and easy to carry.

Regarding claim 50, Tsukada further teaches the system is further adapted to:

(d) make the second connection (fig.5-7, col.12, lines 3-59, *permitting three way conversation*).

Regarding claim 52, Tsukada further teaches the system is further adapted to:

(d) break the second connection (fig.5-7, col.12, lines 3-59); and

(e) take the first connection off hold (fig.5-7, col.12, line 3 to col.13, line 66).

Regarding claim 53, Tsukada further teaches the system is further adapted to provide an audible signal to at least one of the handsets to indicate that the second connection is made (fig.5-7, col.12, line 3 to col.13, line 66).

Regarding claim 54, Ramaswamy teaches a base station for a multi-device telephone system comprising a plurality of devices comprising the base station and at least two handset, the base station comprising control circuitry adapted to:

(a) make a first connection for voice communication between first handset (20) of the system (fig.1: 30, 20) and an external telephone via a telephone network (handsets 20 able to answer the incoming call without unduly interrupting the conference call, fig.1, and 4-5, col.3, lines 5-28); and

(b) place the first connection on hold (call waiting for incoming call) while attempting to make a second connection for voice communication between the first handset (20) and second handset (20) of the system (conference call between the handsets, fig.1, and 4-5, col.6, line 45 to col.7, line 22).

Ramaswamy fails to specifically disclose wireless handset.

However, Tsukada teaches wireless handset (fig.1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to apply the teaching of Tsukada to Ramaswamy to a cordless telephone having a transfer capability between units and easy to carry.

Regarding claim 55, Tsukada further teaches the control circuitry is further adapted to:

(d) make the second connection (fig.5-7, col.12, lines 3-59, *permitting three way conversation*).

Regarding claim 57, Tsukada further teaches the control circuitry is further adapted to:

(e) break the second connections (fig.5-7, col.12, line 3 to col.13, line 66); and

(f) take the first connection off hold (fig.5-7, col.12, line 3 to col.13, line 66, col.17, lines 13-33).

Regarding claim 58, Tsukada further teaches the control circuitry is further adapted to provide an audible signal to at least one of the devices indicate that the second connection is attempted or is made (fig.5-7, col.9, lines 34-40, col.12, line 3 to col.13, line 66, col.17, lines 13-33).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 8, 11, 14, 46, 51, and 56 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Claims 1-2, 5, 19-22, and 28-29 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reason for the indication of allowance:

Applicant's independent claim 1: The present in invention is directed to a method of answering an incoming call at a cordless handset having a base unit and a plurality of cordless handset, each of said base unit and a plurality of cordless handset being at a different location, the independent claim identifies the patentably distinct feature "after the incoming call is answered and while the incoming call is active, initiating an intercom

connection between cordless handset, by an intercom initiating party, to alert an intercom receiving party, the intercom connection permitting voice communication between the intercom initiating party and the intercom receiving party; automatically placing said a coming call in a hold status if either said intercom initiating party or said intercom receiving party is also said first party; and accepting said incoming call at another one of said plurality of cordless handset, by said intercom receiving party, by terminating the hold status". Applicant's independent claim 1 comprises a particular combination of elements, which is neither taught nor-suggested by prior art.

Applicant's independent claim 5: The present in invention is directed to a method of answering all incoming call at a cordless handset with a base unit and first cordless handset and a second cordless handset, said base unit and said first cordless handset and second cordless handset being at separate locations, the independent claim identifies the patentably distinct feature "the first party alerting a second party, by initiating an intercom connection between said first unit and said second unit, while the incoming call is automatically placed in a hold status, the intercom connection permitting voice communication between the first party and the second party; and the second party accepting the incoming call at the second unit by terminating the hold status". Applicant's independent claim 5 comprises a particular combination of elements, which is neither taught nor-suggested by prior art.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KHAI M. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-7923. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kent Chang can be reached on 571.272.7667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Khai M Nguyen/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617 8/24/2011

/AJIT PATEL/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2617